

Council Connection

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

empowerment • opportunity • inclusion

April 2014

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Sibling Photo Contest!



"A Picture is Worth a
1000 Words"
And \$250
[Learn more](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



In 2013, the Council
invested \$381,000 in 23
grants, small & large
[Council Funding](#)

Rosewood Petition

NEW Sibling Survey

Council seeks input from young siblings

The Council wants to learn about the experiences of young siblings of people with developmental disabilities.



With this information, we hope to develop ways to support siblings that are based on the needs and experiences reported here.

Parents, if you have a child age 5-14 that has a sibling with a disability, please support them, if needed, to complete the survey.

Share the survey link with others!

[Young Sib Survey](#)

New Council Leaders

Eric Cole & Aaron Kaufman

The Council is pleased to announce the election of Eric Cole, Chairperson and Aaron Kaufman, Vice Chairperson to serve two year terms.

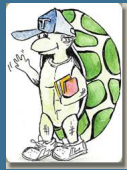


New Funding Awarded



Learn about a petition to establish a permanent tribute to former residents of the Rosewood Center.
Change.org

Do-Si-Do with Autism



View the new Do-Si-Do with Autism Friendship Kit & other resources at
Sarahstup.com

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Council announces 2 new grant awards

Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)

The Youth Leadership Forum provides an exciting, hands-on leadership experience for 30 high school students across the State of Maryland. Youth learn everything from self-advocacy and leadership skills to the history of disability and civil rights movements.

Students also meet leaders with disabilities who instruct them on how to prepare and present legislative testimony. The Council will once again fund this 3 day forum held at Montgomery Community College and Towson University campuses.

For more information about the YLF, visit Independence Now

"I never expected this to be a life changing experience."
~Youth Leadership Forum participant

Project SEARCH

The Project SEARCH High School Transition program is a unique, business led, school-to-work program where students with significant disabilities explore career opportunities and receive instruction to transition from school to community employment.

A business or hospital serves as a host site allowing all learning to occur in the workplace. The program is a collaborative effort between school systems, the Division of Rehabilitation Services, providers and families.

Project SEARCH has over 200 national and international sites including 8 in Maryland. A new Council funded initiative will provide technical assistance to the Maryland sites to improve employment outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities by enhancing the skills and strategies of Project SEARCH personnel and creating a statewide learning community.

For more information, visit Project SEARCH

"Project SEARCH was started in Cincinnati, Ohio more than a decade ago. It is now being replicated nationally and around the world..."
~ Joanna Falcone, Project SEARCH Coordinator

April is Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month

Visit the Pathfinders for Autism website to learn more about the Talents & Passions! campaign, Maryland resources, parent tips and more.



Want more information on autism research, advocacy and events? Visit, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Autism Speaks & the Autism Society.

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